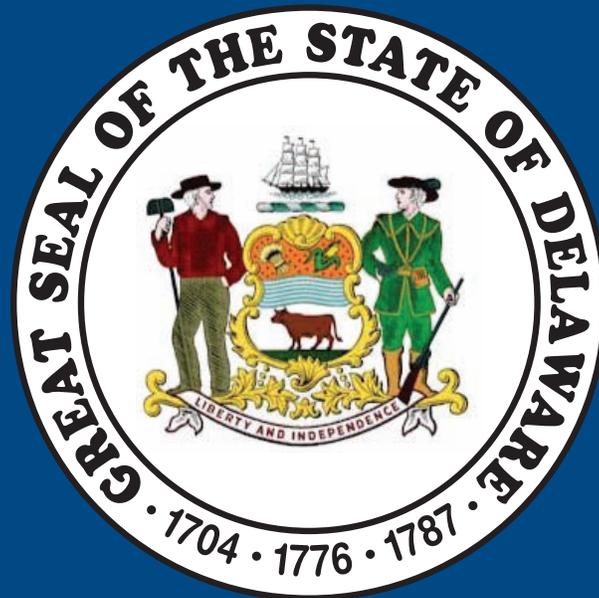


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
COORDINATING COUNCIL



2010

ANNUAL REPORT

and

FATAL INCIDENT REVIEW TEAM  
REPORT

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# **Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**

## **2010 Annual Report**

**and**

## **Fatal Incident Review Team Annual Report**

To:

Honorable Jack A. Markell  
Governor, State of Delaware

Honorable Myron T. Steele  
Chief Justice  
Supreme Court  
State of Delaware

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## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is a State agency legislatively created in 1993 to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence. The Coordinating Council brings together domestic violence service providers and policy-level officials to identify and implement improvements in system response through legislation, education, training, and policy development.

### Chairs

Hon. Patricia M. Blevins  
Member of the Senate  
Council Chair

Hon. Carl C. Danberg  
Commissioner  
Department of Correction  
Council Vice Chair

### Members

Hon. Michael Barbieri  
Member, House of  
Representatives

Honorable Joseph R. Biden, III  
Delaware Attorney General

Ms. Dana Harrington Conner  
Member-at-Large

Dr. Matthew Hoffman  
Representative, Health Care  
Community

Chief Jeffrey Horvath  
Representative, Law  
Enforcement Community

Hon. Deborah Hudson  
Member, House of  
Representatives

Hon. Chandlee Johnson Kuhn  
Chief Judge of Family Court

Ms. Geraldine Lewis-Loper  
Member-at-Large

Ms. Cindy Mercer  
Representative, Domestic  
Violence Advocacy Community

Hon. Brendan J. O'Neill  
The Public Defender

Hon. Vincent J. Poppiti  
Member-at-Large

Hon. Vivian Rapposelli  
Secretary, The Dept. of  
Services for Children, Youth,  
and Their Families

Ms. Margaret Reyes  
Member-at-Large

Hon. Lewis D. Schiliro  
Secretary, Dept. of Safety and  
Homeland Security

Hon. Liane M. Sorenson  
Member of the Senate

Ms. Patricia Tedford  
Representative, Victims of  
Sexual Assault

Hon. James T. Vaughn, Jr.  
President Judge  
Superior Court

### DVCC Staff Contact Information

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Administrative Assistant  
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DVCC Agency Main Number  
302-255-0405

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## WHO WE ARE/WHAT WE DO

### The mission of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and abuse in all its forms.

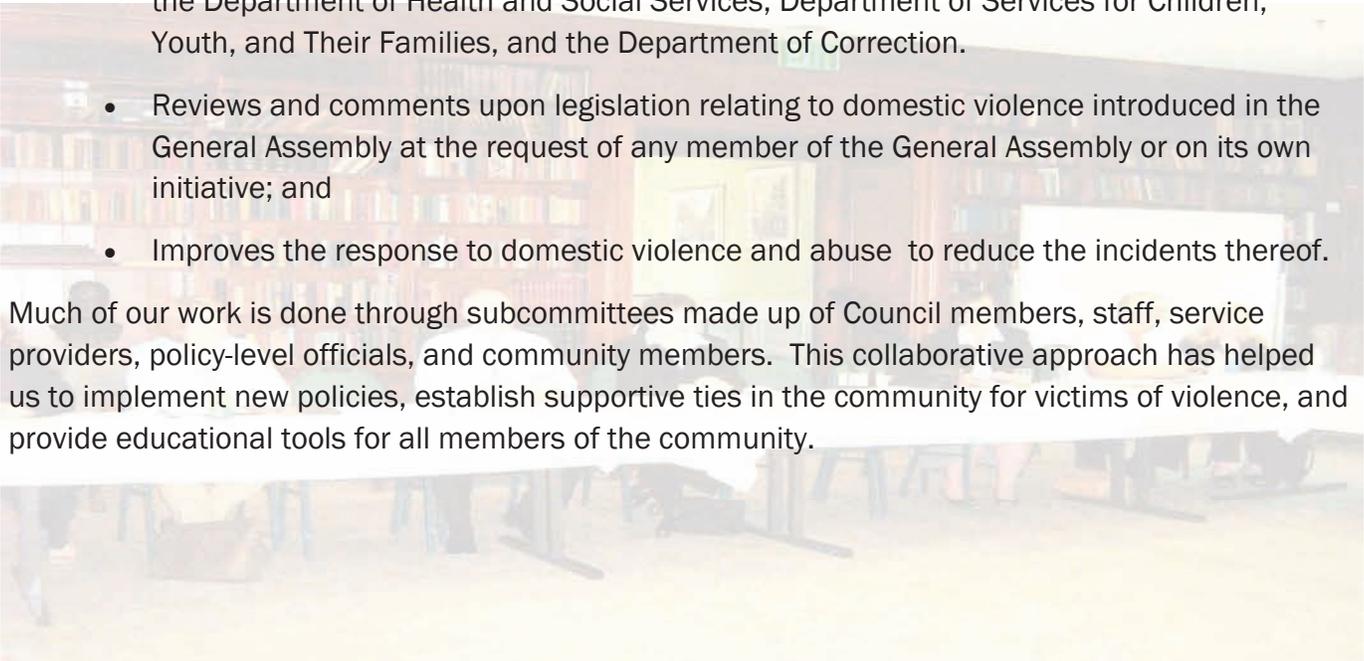
The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is a State agency legislatively created in 1993 to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence. The Coordinating Council brings together domestic violence service providers and policy-level officials to identify and implement improvements in system response through legislation, education, training, and policy development.

*Delaware Code, Title 13, Domestic Relations, Chapter 21*

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council:

- Studies court services and procedures, law enforcement procedures and protocol, and criminal justice data collection and analysis, as it relates to domestic violence.
- Effectually coordinates among agencies, departments, and the courts with victims of domestic violence and abuse.
- Promotes effective prevention, intervention, and treatment techniques based upon research and data collection.
- Recommends standards for treatment programs for perpetrators of domestic violence to the Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families, and the Department of Correction.
- Reviews and comments upon legislation relating to domestic violence introduced in the General Assembly at the request of any member of the General Assembly or on its own initiative; and
- Improves the response to domestic violence and abuse to reduce the incidents thereof.

Much of our work is done through subcommittees made up of Council members, staff, service providers, policy-level officials, and community members. This collaborative approach has helped us to implement new policies, establish supportive ties in the community for victims of violence, and provide educational tools for all members of the community.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS



Hon. Patricia M. Blevins  
State Senate  
Chair

On behalf of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, we present the 2010 Annual Report and Fatal Incident Review Team Report. The Coordinating Council had a very productive year and accomplished several important goals with the support of our members and community partners.

The Legislative Subcommittee worked on several bills aimed at enhancing victim safety; Senate Bill 197, which recognized the severity of the crime of strangulation by making it a stand alone felony and House Bill 336, which expands the period of protection under the Protection From Abuse Statute. We gratefully acknowledge the Governor, the Attorney General, the law enforcement community and the advocacy community, for supporting our legislative efforts.



Hon. Carl C. Danberg  
Commissioner  
Department of Correction  
Vice Chair

Additionally, the Coordinating Council continued to work in the area of Domestic Violence and Youth. The Teen Dating Violence Task Force met over a nine month period and in May, 2010, submitted their final report to the Governor, the Secretary of Education and members of the General Assembly. The Report includes recommendations for policies relating to teen dating violence education in our schools. Recognizing the specific needs of teen offenders, the Treatment Subcommittee Working Group developed the Adolescent Dating Abuse Intervention Standards. We greatly appreciate their work over the past two years developing treatment standards.

We thank our members and staff for their work to improve Delaware's response to domestic violence.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Bridget V. Poulle  
Executive Director

### DVCC STAFF



Cynthia M. Boehmer  
Project Coordinator



Cheryl M. Cooper  
Trainer/Educator



Cara C. Sawyer  
Planning Supervisor



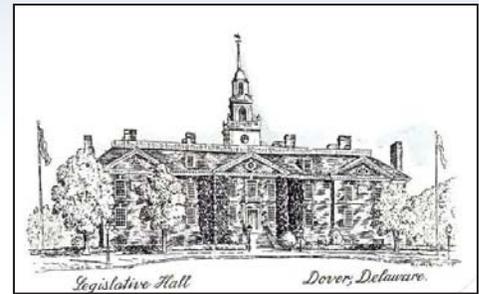
Kenzel V. Messick  
Administrative Assistant

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is a state agency established by statute in 1993 to improve the coordination among agencies responding to domestic violence in our state. Our unique model brings together divergent groups who nonetheless share the same goal of improving Delaware's response to domestic violence.

Much of the work of the Coordinating Council is done through our Subcommittees and following are examples of their recent efforts; The DVCC Treatment Subcommittee collaborated with the Office of the Public Defender to provide a CLE Training for attorneys on Domestic Violence Intervention for Offenders, the DVCC Downstate Committee and Immigration Subcommittee partnered with the US Attorney's Office, the Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic Affairs and others to present a one day training on Human Trafficking Laws and the Law Enforcement Training Group in collaboration with Delaware State Police, presented the 2009 Statewide Law Enforcement Training on Intimate Partner Strangulation, attended by over 200 law enforcement members.

The Coordinating Council staff continued to provide numerous trainings on Teen Dating Abuse and Sexting to schools throughout the state, including a presentation on Healthy Relationships to 700 teens and parents gathered for the 2010 Martin Luther King Celebration. We look forward to continued opportunities for outreach.

Great appreciation is extended to our Chair, Hon. Patricia M. Blevins, our Vice Chair, Hon. Carl C. Danberg, and all the members of the Coordinating Council for their leadership and commitment to the issue. I would also like to thank the hard working DVCC staff, the members of the Subcommittees and Working Groups and all our community partners for their tireless efforts to reduce the incidence of domestic violence in all forms.



The following bills were passed by the 145th Delaware General Assembly:

### **Senate Bill (SB) 197**

#### **AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO OFFENSES AGAINST THE PERSON.**

This Legislation recognizes the severity of the crime of strangulation by making it a stand-alone felony. Strangulation is a leading indicator in domestic violence deaths. Delaware becomes the 19th state with a strangulation felony law on the books.

*Primary Sponsor:* Senator Patricia M. Blevins

*Signed by the Governor:* 5/14/2010

### **House Bill (HB) 336**

#### **AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 10 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO PROTECTION FROM ABUSE PROCEEDINGS.**

This legislation enhances the Family Court's ability to protect victims of domestic violence and abuse by authorizing the Family Court to enter the no contact provisions of protection from abuse orders for up to 2 years in every case and, where aggravating circumstances exists, authorizing the Family Court to order no contact for as long as it deems necessary to prevent further abuse, including the entry of a permanent order.

*Primary Sponsor:* Representative Michael Barbieri

*Signed by the Governor:* 7/12/2010

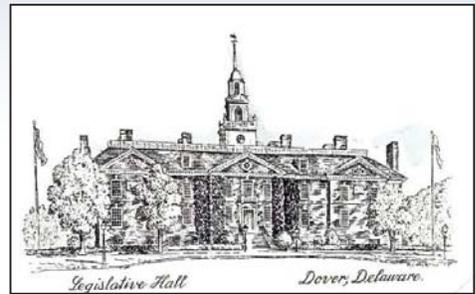
### **House Bill (HB) 451**

#### **AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 10 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO FAMILY COURT.**

This Legislation clarifies that Family Court may extend an ex parte order up to 30 days, for purposes other than effectuating service, where necessary to continue protection.

*Primary Sponsor:* Representative Deborah Hudson

*Signed by the Governor:* 7/27/2010



### Update on Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 21

#### **ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS OF POLICIES RELATING TO TEEN DATING VIOLENCE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS.**

In June 2009, SCR 21 was passed by the members of the Delaware General Assembly to establish a Teen Dating Violence Task Force. A written report was submitted to the Governor, the Secretary of the Department of Education and to members of the General Assembly, in the Spring of 2010. This report included teen dating violence policy recommendations for schools.

Chaired by Senator Liane Sorenson with staff members provided by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, the Teen Dating Violence Task Force and Community partners, the group interviewed Delaware teens, reviewed state and national policies and initiatives and researched national literature to understand the scope of teen dating violence. Some of their conclusions are as follows:

The Teen Dating Violence Task Force supports middle and high schools to utilize strategies and curricula that focus on teaching teens the skills to promote healthy relationships. A healthy relationship curriculum will help teens make sound personal decisions and build relationship skills where a culture of respect becomes the norm. Teens that have information about healthy relationships may be more likely to report to school officials when their relationship is unhealthy and possibly violent.

The Task Force concluded that teen dating violence is a major public health and safety concern in the State due to the detrimental effects of violence and the impact it has on young victims, offenders, their families, their schools, and their communities.

While SCR 21 directed the Task Force to make recommendations for schools, members concluded that violence in interpersonal relationships is everyone's concern. Although initiatives exist in Delaware to promote healthy relationships and deter teen dating violence, additional efforts are warranted. The percentages of teens that experience teen dating violence, and the powerful statements by teens themselves, validate continued attention to this important issue. Therefore future initiatives should address engaging all segments of our community, including business, faith communities, media, youth programs, and governmental agencies to collaborate and coordinate efforts to promote healthy relationships.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

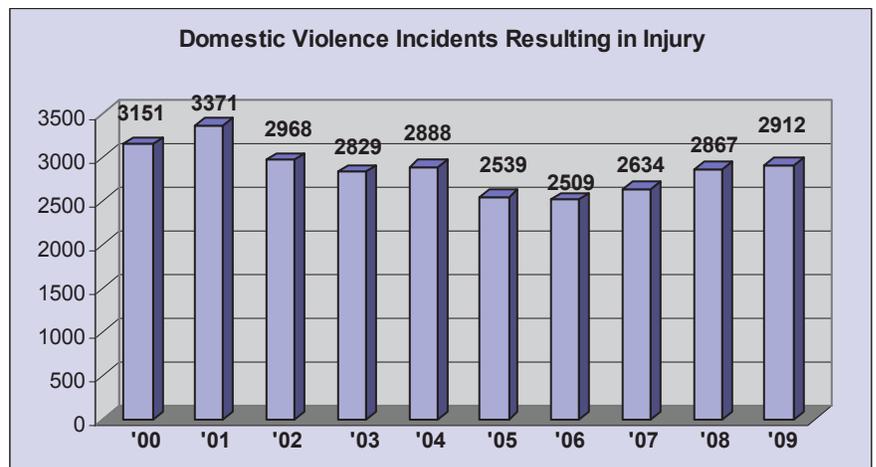
In calendar year 2009, as reported by the State Bureau of Identification, the total number of domestic violence incidents in Delaware was 28,314 (combined criminal and non-criminal).



In calendar year 2009, the total number of domestic violence criminal incidents was 15,905.

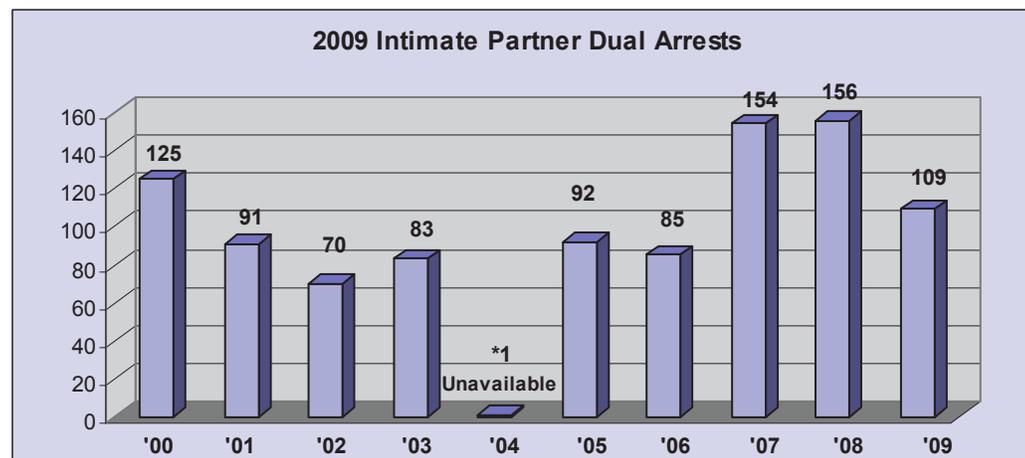
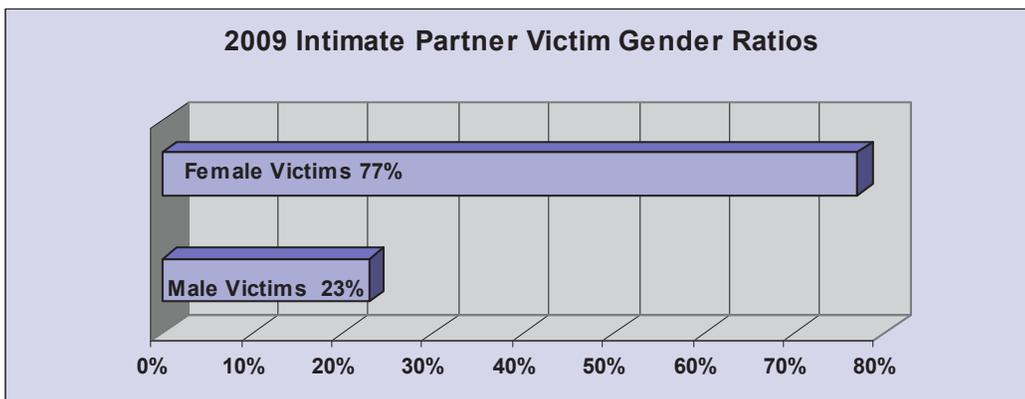
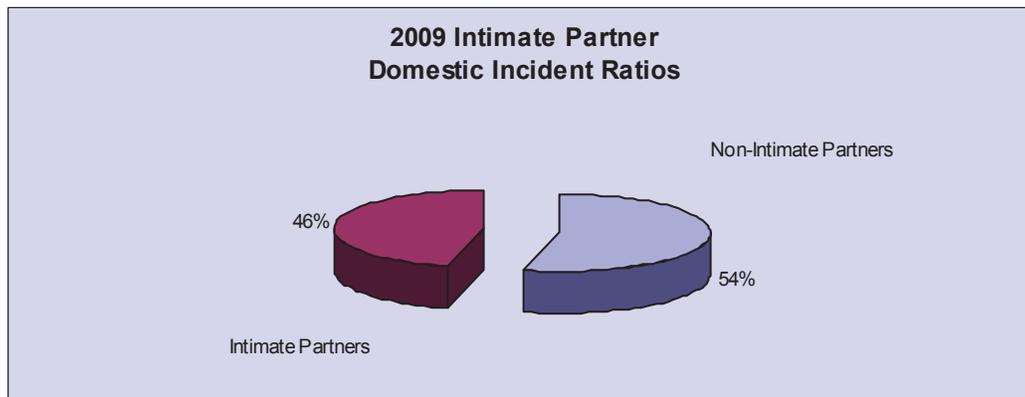


Of the 15,905 criminal incidents, 2,912 resulted in physical injury.



## INTIMATE PARTNER STATISTICS

The term “Intimate Partner” includes current and former spouses, current and former dating couples with or without a child in common and dating couples. Intimate partners may be the same gender.



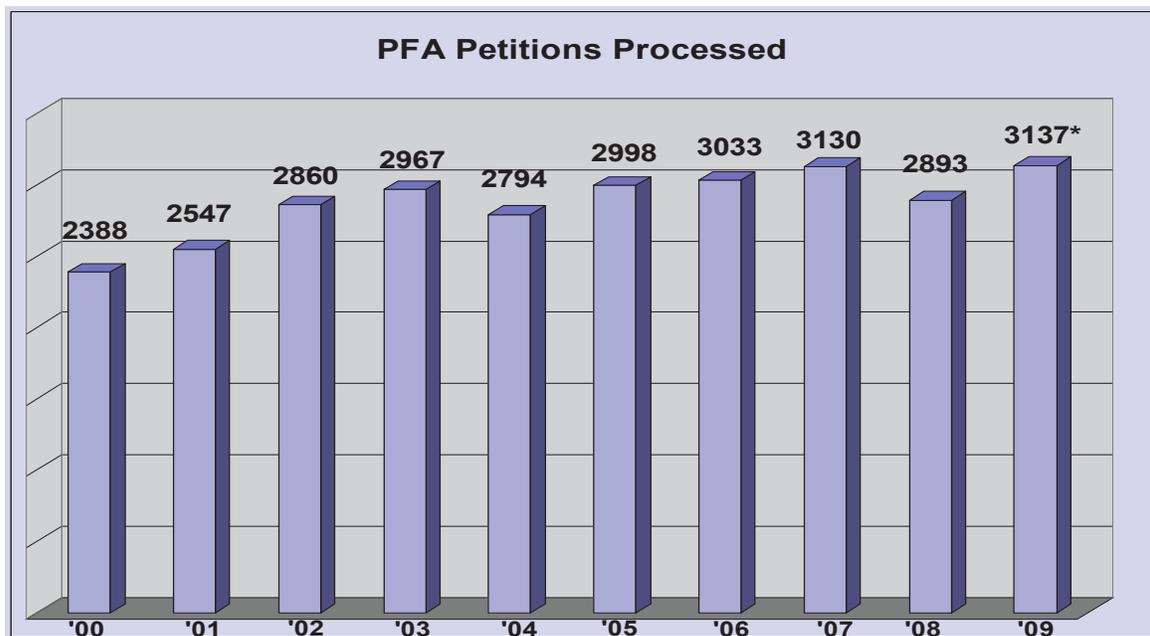
## PROTECTION FROM ABUSE STATISTICS

### What is an Order of Protection From Abuse?

An Order of Protection From Abuse is issued by Family Court ordering someone to stop abusing another person, and may include other relief, such as ordering the abuser to stay away from the person being abused. Abuse is defined as any threatening or harmful conduct including serious emotional harm.

### Who can file for Protection From Abuse?

Spouses, ex-spouses, family members, persons who lived together when the abuse occurred, persons living together as a couple, with or without a child/children, or persons living separate and apart with a child/children in common, or persons (includes same sex) in a current or former substantive dating relationship may file for an Order of Protection from Abuse. Also, the Division of Child Protective Services acting in the interest of a minor child may file a petition alleging domestic violence; or the Division of Adult Protective Services acting in the interest of an infirm adult may file a petition alleging domestic violence; or parents/guardians may file a petition on behalf of their teens who are in abusive relationships.

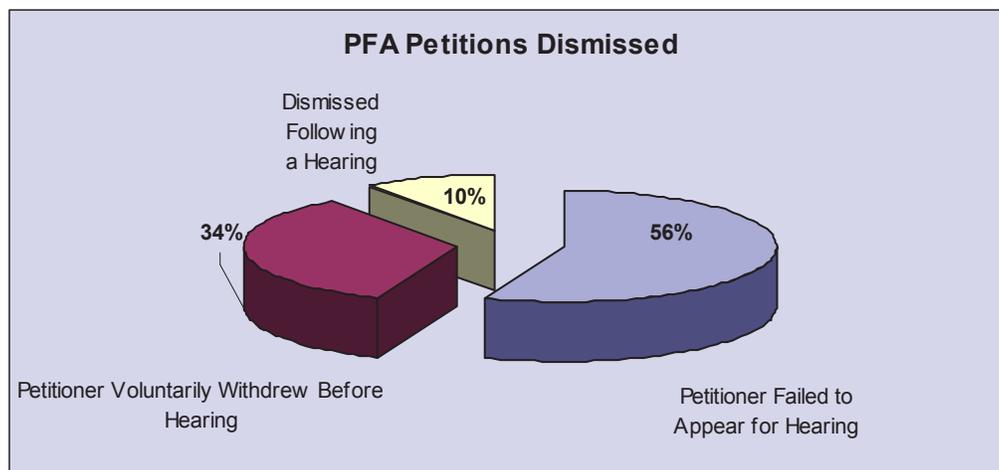
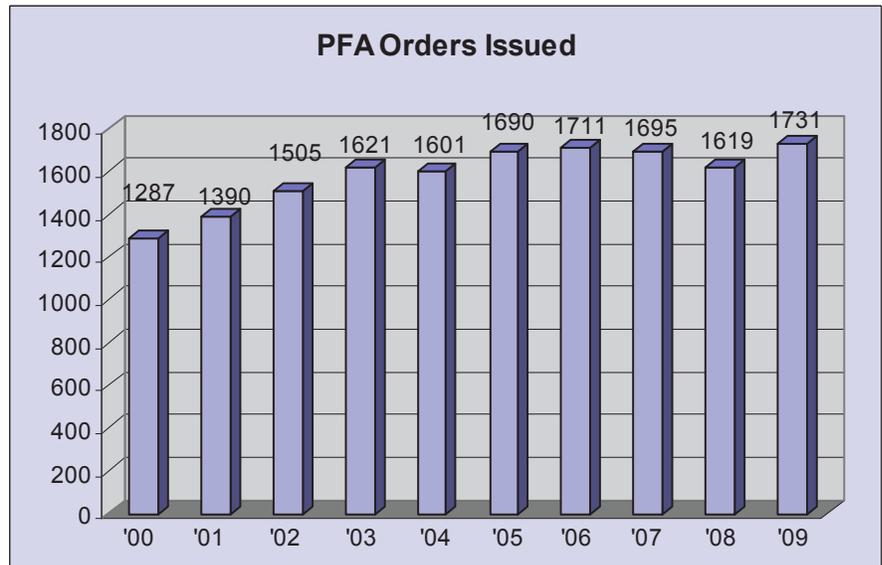


Family Court processed 3,137 Protection From Abuse Petitions (PFA), Statewide in 2009.

*\*The 3,137 excludes the additional 1,560 Ex-Parte Orders (Temporary 10-Day Emergency Order) issued in 2009.*

## PROTECTION FROM ABUSE STATISTICS

In 2009, there were 1,731 Final Protection From Abuse Orders issued Statewide. Protection Orders issued may provide the following relief for victims: no contact with the Petitioner, exclusive use of the home or possessions, temporary custody, child support or support for the Petitioner, payment of expenses, surrender of firearms, counseling, and other relief that may help to prevent future violence.

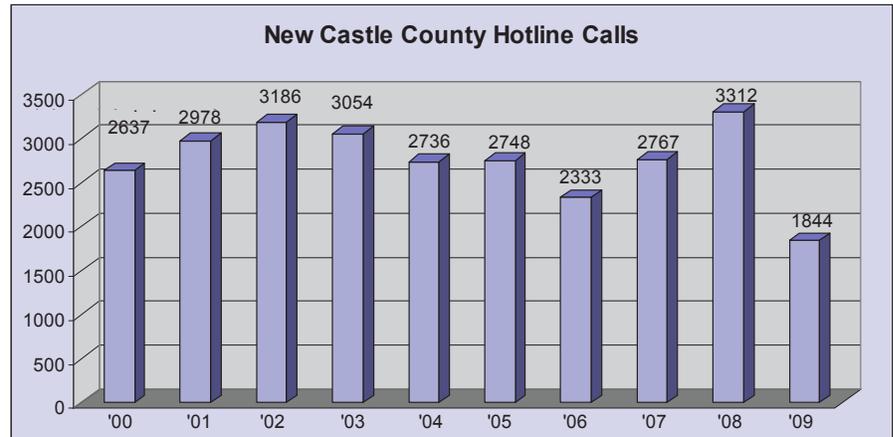


Of the 3,137 petitions processed, 1,731 PFA Orders were issued. The remaining 1,406 petitions were dismissed. A Protection From Abuse petition dismissal can occur one of three ways -

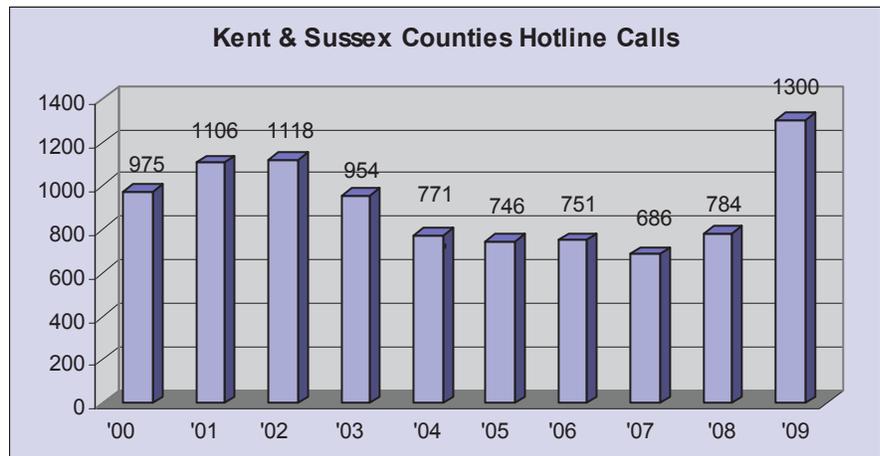
- The Petitioner fails to appear for the hearing (784),
- The Petitioner voluntarily withdraws the petition before the hearing (484),
- Or, dismissed following a hearing where abuse was not found by a preponderance of evidence (138).

## HOTLINE STATISTICS

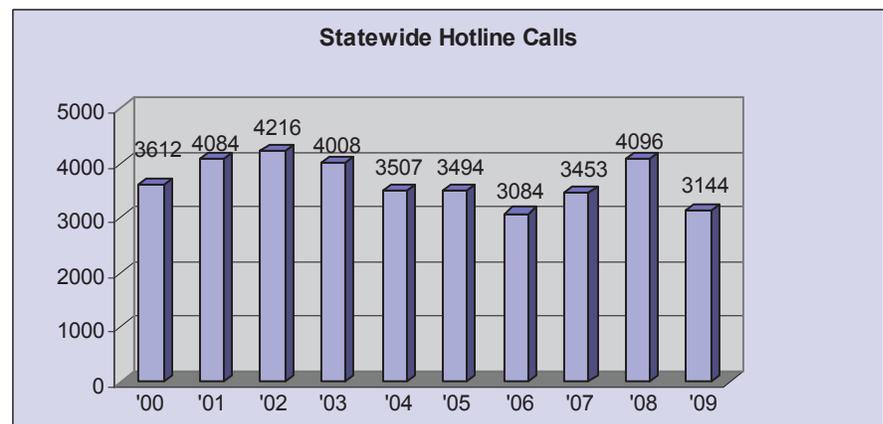
In 2009, there were 1,844 calls to the domestic violence hotline in New Castle County. This is a decrease of 1,468 calls from 2008 and is the lowest number of hotline calls in ten years.



In 2009, there was a total of 1,300 calls to domestic violence hotlines in Kent and Sussex Counties. This is an increase of 516 calls and is the highest number of hotline calls since the DVCC began keeping records in 1998.



In 2009, there were a total of 3,144 calls received by domestic violence hotlines, Statewide. The average number of hotline calls is 3,670.

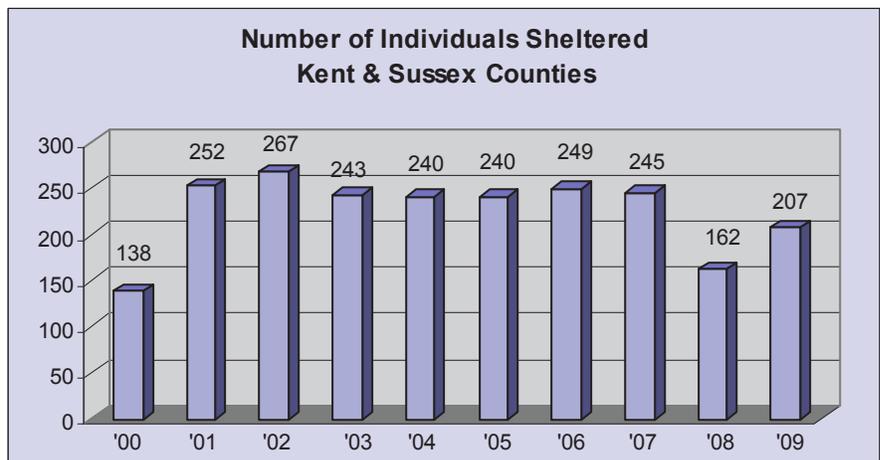


## SHELTER STATISTICS

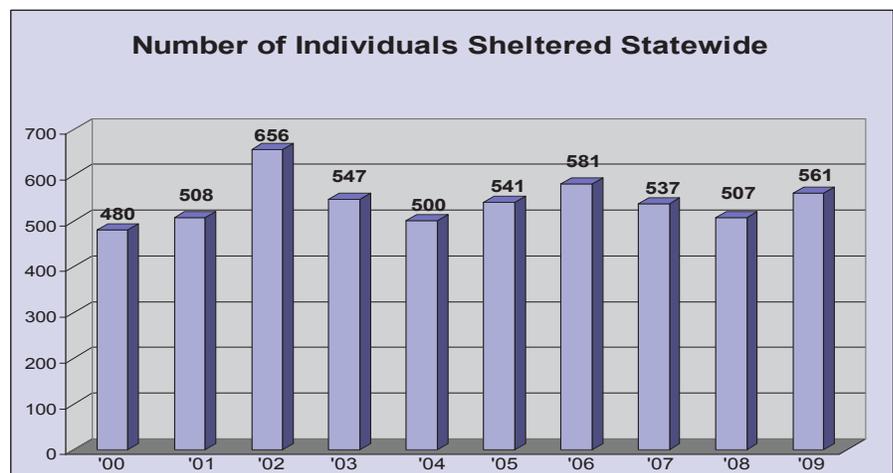
In New Castle County, 354 individuals were provided shelter in 2009. Of the 354 individuals provided shelter, 192 were women and 162 were children.



In Kent and Sussex Counties, the total number of individuals sheltered in 2009 was 207. Of the 207 provided shelter, 112 were women and 95 were children.



In 2009, 561 women and children received shelter services in Delaware. The average number of individuals sheltered (per year) in Delaware's domestic violence shelters is 542.



## PROGRAM STATISTICS

### Domestic Violence Advocacy Programs

The Victim Advocacy Programs help victims of domestic violence navigate their way through the court system. Trained advocates assist victims with safety planning, answer questions about the court process, assist in filing petitions and provide a supportive presence at court hearings. Services are provided in Family Court in all three counties.

***New Castle County***  
***Individuals Served:***  
***712***

***Kent County***  
***Individuals Served:***  
***430***

***Sussex County***  
***Individuals Served:***  
***376***

### Family Visitation Centers

In collaboration with the State of Delaware and two private non-profit organizations, Family Visitation Centers help address custody and visitation issues in families with a history of domestic violence. Statewide, five Centers provide a safe, neutral setting for monitored exchange of children for off-site visitation or supervised on-site visitation.

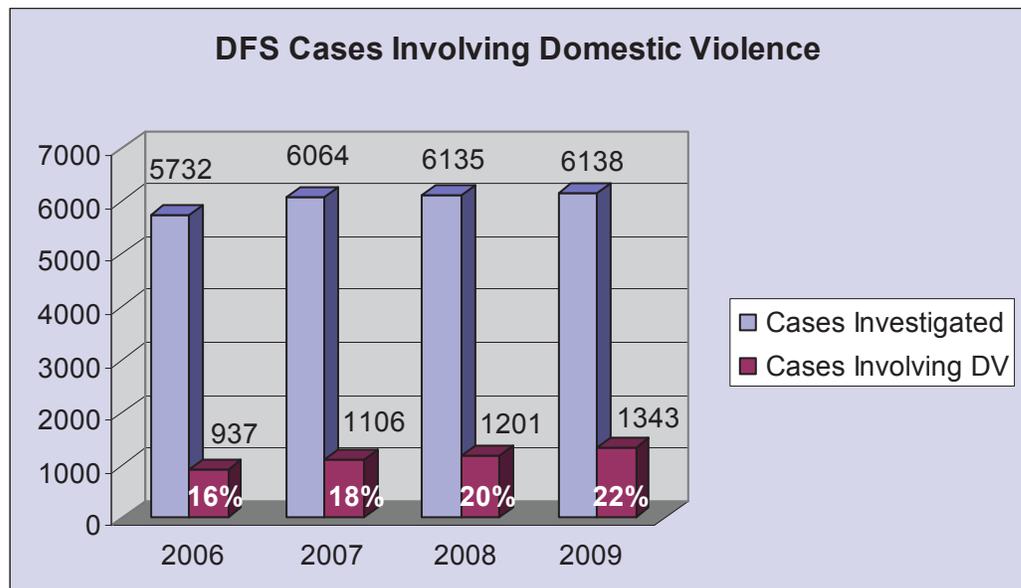
	<b>Child, Inc. New Castle County</b>	<b>People's Place Kent &amp; Sussex Counties</b>
Visitation Exchanges:	722	876
Group Visits:	926	706
Individual Supervised Visits:	453	893
Children Served:	80	179
Parent/Caregivers Served:	114	218

## PROGRAM STATISTICS



The Division of Family Services screens for domestic violence when a report is made, during an investigation, and when a case is active for treatment. These statistics represent the total number of child abuse, neglect and dependency reports that met the criteria for investigation and that also alleged domestic violence.

### DFS Accepted Investigations With Alleged Domestic Violence



## PROGRAM STATISTICS



The Child Development Community Policing (CDCP) Program is a mental health program provided by the Delaware Division of Services to Children, Youth and Their Families. This program was originally developed by Yale University to embed Mental Health clinicians with Law Enforcement. The clinicians respond to traumatic and other serious situations that would reasonably impact on a Child's Mental Health. These incidents include: witnessing homicides, rapes, assaults, domestic violence, and other life threatening events.

**In 2009, the CDCP Program Provided Service to 233 Children. Of those, 97 children received services for DV related incidents.**

### *Children/Adolescents Exposed to DV Children Centered DV Treatment*

#### **New Castle County**

##### **(Helping Children Heal):**

Children/Adolescents Served:	106
Parent/Caretakers Served:	<u>129</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>

#### **Kent and Sussex Counties**

##### **(Turning Point):**

Children/Adolescents Served:	95
Parent /Caretakers Served:	<u>54</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>

##### **(Crossroads of Georgetown):**

Children/Adolescents Served:	27
Parent/Caretakers Served:	<u>45</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>

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## **PROGRAM STATISTICS**

Probation & Parole has a specialized DV Unit in each county. Domestic violence cases are assigned to the DV Units based on criteria, including offenses, victim/offender relationships, and active PFA orders. The philosophy of the DV Unit is to hold the offender accountable and to maintain victim safety. In addition to specialized DV Probation Officers, each office has a Domestic Violence Victim Liaison.

### *Department of Correction Probation and Parole Supervised Domestic Violence Offender Data*

#### **New Castle County Supervision**

Number of DV Offenders: 490  
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases: 10  
Probationer/Probation Officer Ratio: 49:1  
Number of Victims Served by DV Liaison: 341

#### **Kent County Supervision**

Number of DV Offenders: 333  
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases: 7  
Probationer/Probation Officer Ratio: 48:1  
Number of Victims Served by DV Liaison: 319

#### **Sussex County Supervision**

Number of DV Offenders: 141  
Number of Probation Officers Assigned to DV Cases: 4  
Probationer/Probation Officer Ratio: 35:1  
Number of Victims Served by DV Liaison: 128

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## **DVCC SUBCOMMITTEES & OTHER DVCC COMMITTEES**

### **Children and Domestic Violence**

Chairs: Hon. Deborah Hudson and Hon. Vivian Rapposelli

Staff: Cara C. Sawyer

### **Criminal Justice**

Chairs: Hon. James T. Vaughn, Jr., Chief Jeffrey Horvath and Hon. Brendan O'Neill

Staff: Cara C. Sawyer

### **Elderly and Domestic Violence**

Chairs: Hon. Joseph R. Biden, III, and Geri Lewis-Loper

Staff: Cheryl M. Cooper

### **Immigration, Northern & Southern Delaware**

Chair: Margaret Reyes

Staff: Cynthia Boehmer

### **Legislative Drafting and Review**

Chairs: Hon. Patricia M. Blevins and Hon. Joseph R. Biden, III

Staff: Bridget V. Poulle

### **Medical**

Chairs: Dr. Matthew Hoffman

Staff: Cynthia Boehmer

### **Public Awareness/Education**

Chairs: Hon. Liane M. Sorenson and Cindy Mercer

Staff: Cheryl M. Cooper

### **Treatment**

Chairs: Hon. Carl C. Danberg, Patricia Tedford and Hon. Brendan O'Neill

Staff: Bridget V. Poulle

### **Other DVCC Committees**

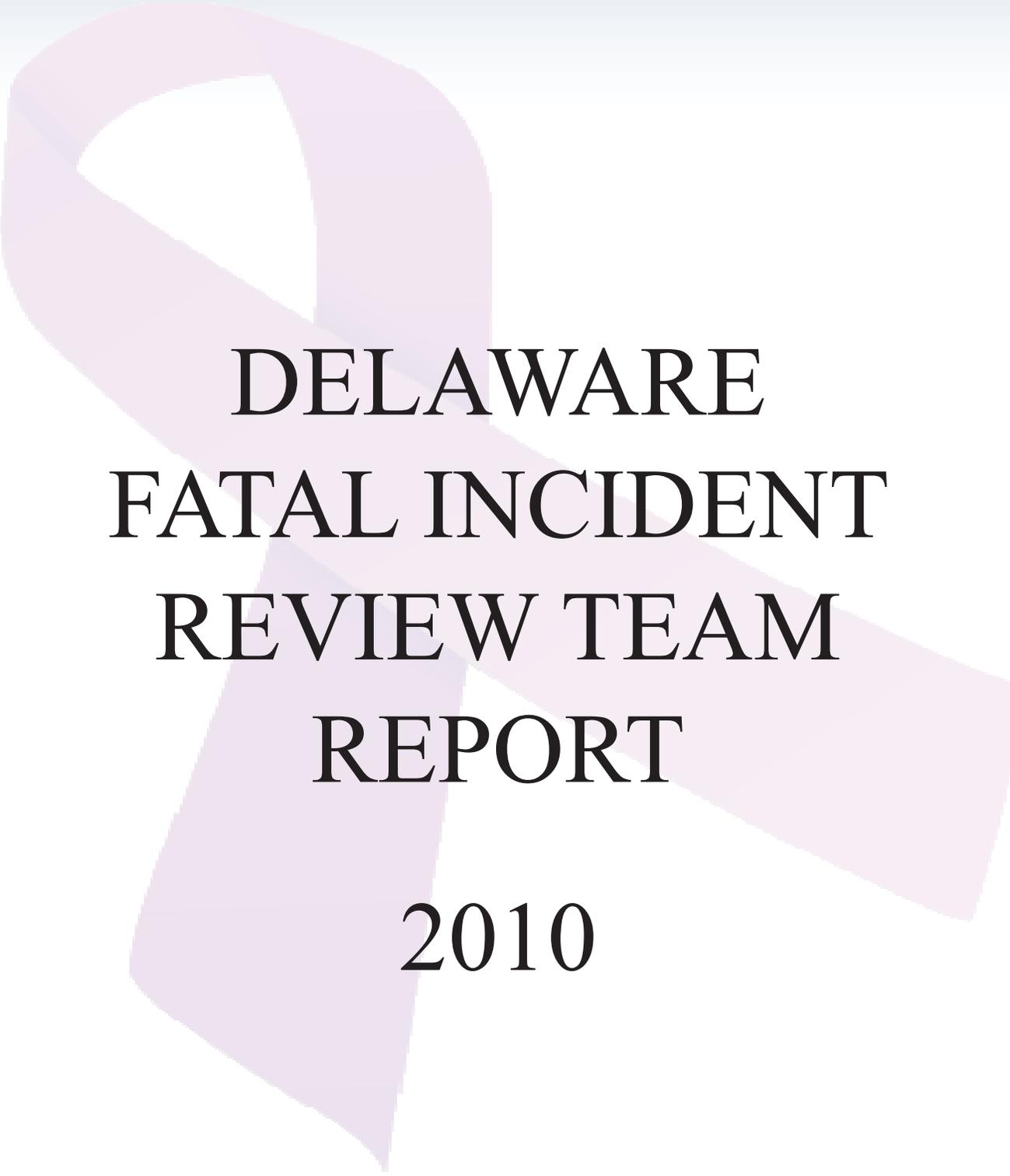
**Batterers' Intervention Certification Panel** (Staff: Cynthia Boehmer)

**Downstate Domestic Violence Committee** (Staff: Cynthia Boehmer)

**Fatal Incident Review Team** Chairs: Hon. Vincent J. Poppiti and Dana Harrington Conner, Esq.  
(Staff: Cara C. Sawyer)

**Law Enforcement Training Working Group** (Staff: Cheryl Cooper)

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**DELAWARE  
FATAL INCIDENT  
REVIEW TEAM  
REPORT  
2010**

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# The History of the Purple Ribbon

The Battered Women's Movement twenty-two years ago designated the Purple Ribbon as the emblem that represents countless lives lost to domestic violence. The explanations of why the Movement chose this color and when the formal use of the ribbon became widespread are various. However, one narration, believed by many, is as follows:

“There was a woman from the Midwest in the 1980s, who had left her abusive relationship and had worked her way to being a director of the battered women's program in her community. Her batterer was in jail, but he had been released on a temporary furlough. During his release, he crossed state lines and found her and killed her in her home. The woman's name was Lisa Bianco, and she was loved and sorely missed by those who knew her. Her friends and family wanted to remember the life of this beloved woman and chose to wear her favorite color in her honor - the color purple.”

This tragic and unfortunate incident led to the Purple Ribbon's unofficial use by domestic violence advocates before any awareness campaign ever existed.

From small beginnings are borne great fruits, and this is very much the case with the Purple Ribbon. At the beginning, scant numbers of communities used the Purple Ribbon to support the victims of domestic violence and their families. Today its widespread use has propelled the visibility of the movement to end domestic violence - regardless of age, gender identity, religion, race, ethnicity, nationality, income, or education.

Importantly, it shattered the silence about domestic violence, family violence, and violence in society. The message that the Ribbon puts into words is that domestic violence should be and must be stamped out of our global culture. Its presence in homes, churches, schools, workplaces and communities helps empower the message behind the Ribbon. In speaking for victims, survivors, and families, the Purple Ribbon ultimately represents the undying commitment of many women and men not to let those deaths and abuses continue. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mountain Times, “October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month” October 2004

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## Introduction

Domestic violence continues to be a devastating problem and deaths resulting from this crime are the ultimate acts of abuse. In 2009, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) identified 10 domestic violence fatal incident cases, resulting in 14 deaths. In some of these cases the victims had taken steps to protect themselves and/or their families from their abusive partner. Despite their efforts, some victims and/or the people they loved died from the hands of the abusive partner.

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's Fatal Incident Review Team's purpose is to review domestic violence fatalities, once prosecution has been completed, in order to reduce domestic violence deaths in the future.

The Review Team members are dedicated professionals who conduct system audits of State agencies and private organizations that had contact with the deceased victim and/or the alleged perpetrator to assess the system's response. Other relevant persons are invited to serve on an ad hoc basis and participate as full members of the Team when it is determined that they possess pertinent information in a particular case. Ad hoc members can include, but are not limited to, private attorneys, public defenders, probation and parole, therapists, victim service workers, caseworkers, and representatives from other relevant agencies.

Team members (or their designee) are responsible for providing information documented by their agency or discipline which is specific to the case under review. Team members also serve as a resource by providing general information regarding their agency or discipline; such as, explanation of legal issues, types of services available for victims, or overview of court procedures.

Although the domestic violence fatality reviews are retrospective in nature, their purpose is prospective. Reviews focus on identifying trends, patterns and obstacles in services, assessing agency interventions, and, most importantly, developing practical recommendations aimed at improving the system and preventing future injury and death.



## Review Team Members & Participants

### Co-Chairs

**Honorable Vincent J. Poppiti**, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

**Dana Harrington Conner**, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

### Members and Participants

**Honorable Joseph R. Biden, III**, Attorney General

**Vivian Rapposelli**, Secretary, Dept. of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families

**Honorable Chandlee Johnson Kuhn**, Chief Judge Family Court

**Lillian Lowery**, Secretary of the Department of Education

**Honorable Alan Davis**, Chief Magistrate Justice of the Peace Courts

**Cindy Mercer**, Victim Advocate Appointed by the DVCC

**Rita M. Landgraf**, Director of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

**Chief Michael Capriglione**, Delaware Police Chiefs' Council

**Maria Knoll**, Attorney General's Office

**Leann Summa**, Family Court

**Perry Alfater**, Probation and Parole/Dept. of Correction

**Alan Grinstead**, Department of Correction

**Sgt. Scott McCarthy**, Delaware State Police

**Sgt. Patricia Davies**, New Castle County Police

**Det. Anthony Harris**, Wilmington Police Department

**Linda Shannon**, Division of Family Services

**Cheryl Stallman**, Justice of the Peace Courts

**Lynda Lord**, Division of Health and Social Services

**Debbie Reed**, Delaware State Police, Victim Services

**Kathy Goldsmith**, Department of Education

**Cara C. Sawyer**, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council



## Review Team Process

In an attempt to ensure that no domestic violence fatality escapes review, the Fatal Incident Review Team has adapted the following broad definition of domestic violence, which is similar to the definition used by the Department of Justice.

***Domestic Violence is any abusive act between family members, husband and wife, ex-husband and wife, intimate cohabitants, former intimate cohabitants, dating couples, and former dating couples. Abusive acts include physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, threats of abuse, and destruction of property. Domestic violence shall also include abusive acts in which an individual who has a relationship with the domestic violence victim is killed as a result of the offender's actions. The offender and victim in a domestic violence case may be of the same sex. The death of a minor will only be reviewed where the minor's parents or guardians were involved in an abusive relationship and the minor's death is directly related to that abuse.***

The Review Team meets monthly; however, no case may be reviewed until prosecution is completed in criminal cases and authorized by the Attorney General's Office. During a review, each team member completes a data sheet providing information regarding his/her agency's contact with the victim and/or perpetrator. Prior to the review, members also provide any documents maintained by their agency concerning a particular case to staff. Staff then reviews all documents and provides the team with a time line of events. In addition, staff provides copies of each participating agency's documents which are available one hour prior to the meeting for review by panel members. Files are confidential and therefore cannot be distributed.

Legislation mandates confidentiality requirements in the review process and any records created therein are exempt from the provision of the Freedom of Information Act. Therefore, all records of the reviews are confidential and are maintained in the DVCC office and may only be used by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council in the exercise of its proper function.



## Domestic Violence Fatal Incident Cases

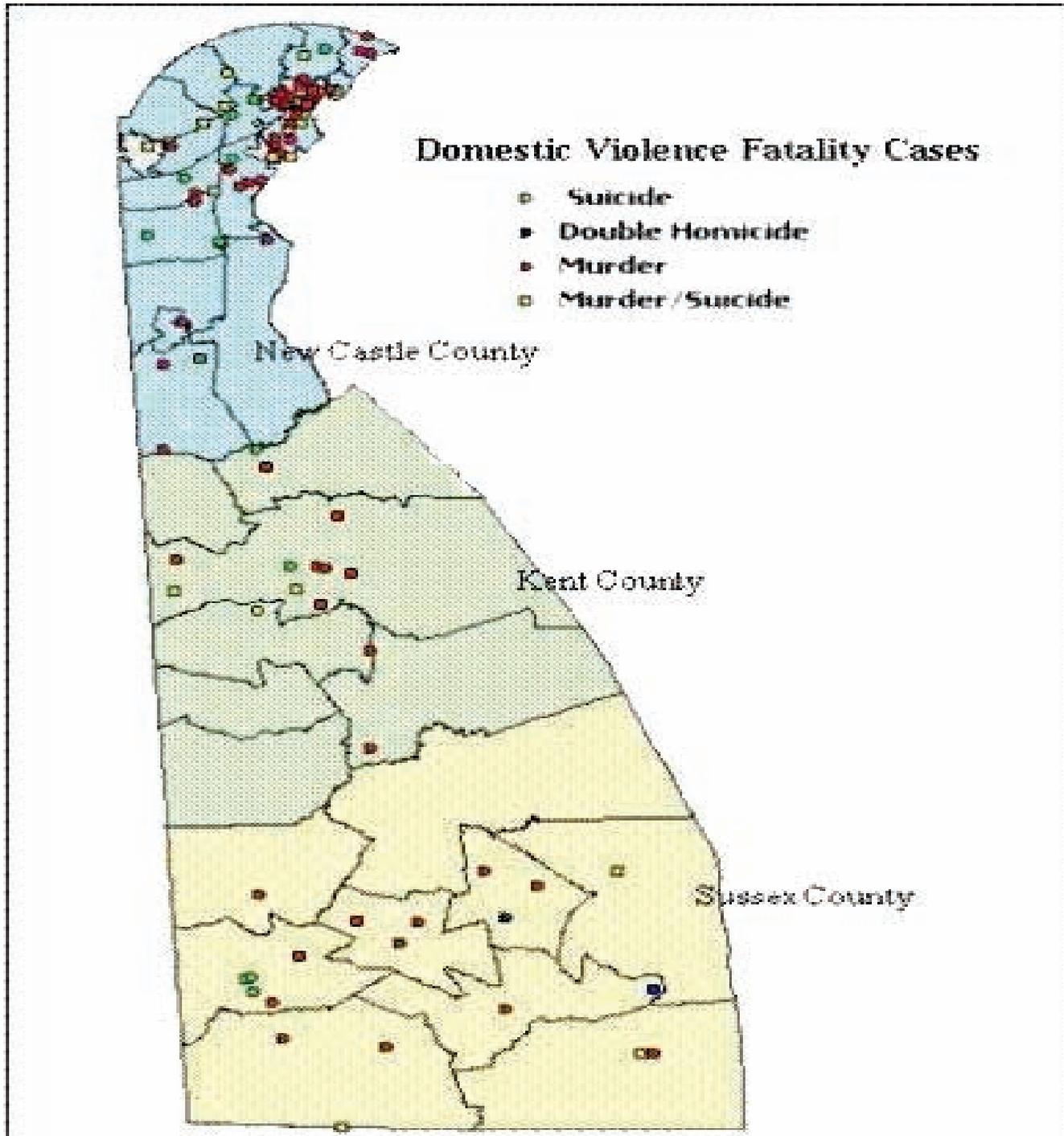
The information contained in this report represents cumulative data collected from 98 case reviews, which occurred over a period of 13 years. The fatality cases contained in this report occurred between 1996 and 2009. However, because cases cannot be reviewed until prosecution is completed, not all of the cases that occurred between 1996 and 2009 appear in this report (13 Del. C. Section § 2105). Included in this report are ten additional cases since last year's report. The ten cases resulted in 14 deaths. This report includes those ten cases as well as cumulative data from all the past cases the Fatal Incident Review Team has investigated.

# 98 Domestic Violence Fatal Incident Cases Resulting In 125 Deaths

<b>Homicide Victims</b>	<b>Perpetrator Suicides Following Homicide</b>	<b>Suicides</b>	<b>Undetermined Victim Deaths</b>
<b>88</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>

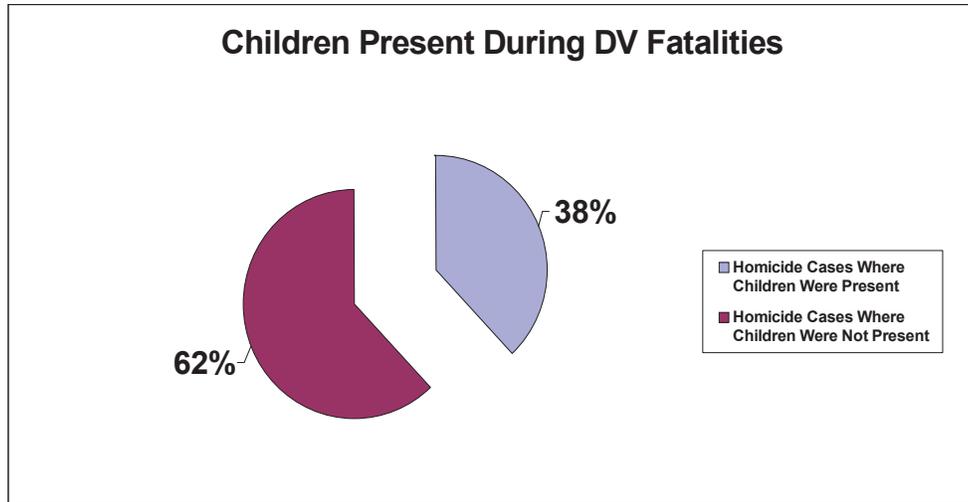


## Location of Fatal Incidents Included in this Report

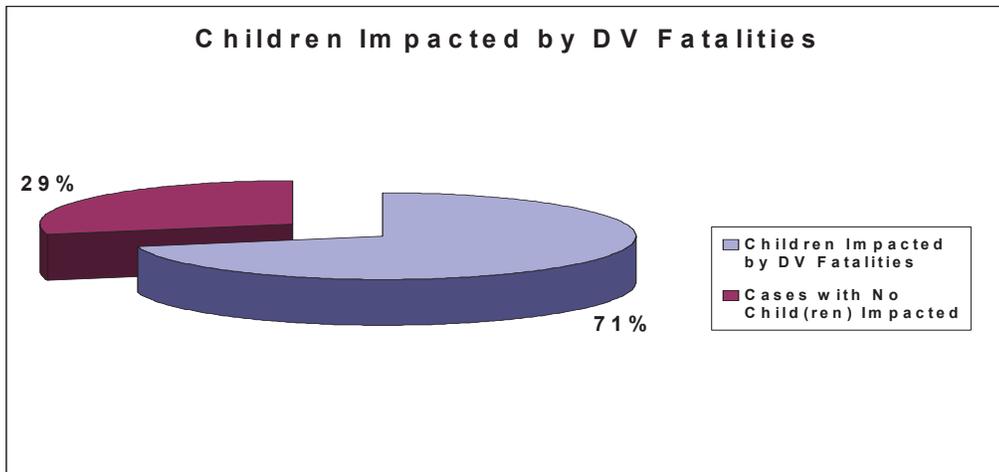




# Impact of Domestic Violence on Children



In 37 or 38% of the 98 cases reviewed in this report, children were present when the fatality occurred. This represents a total of 58 children present when the fatality occurred.

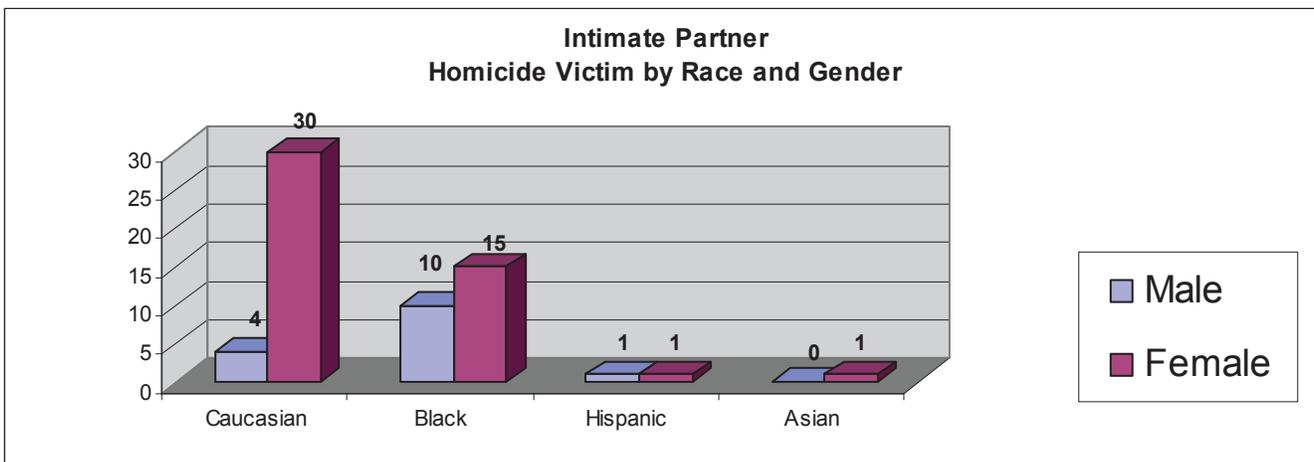


Children were impacted in 70 or 71% of the 98 cases reviewed in this report. This represents a total of 95 children who lost a parent(s) due to domestic violence.

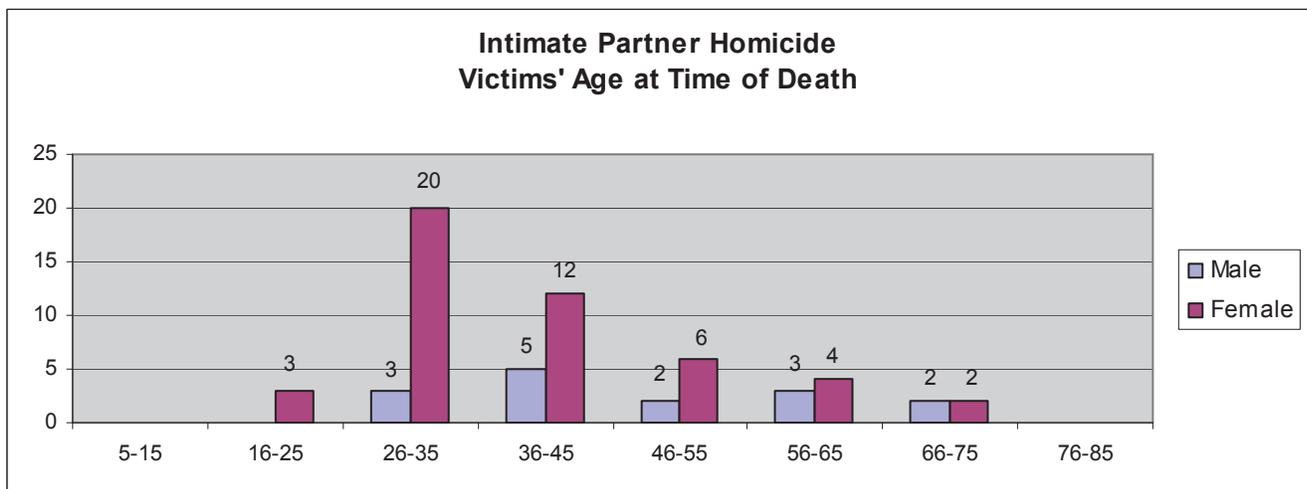


# Intimate Partner Data

*The term “Intimate Partner” includes current and former spouses, current and former dating couples with or without a child in common and dating couples. Intimate partners may be the same gender.*



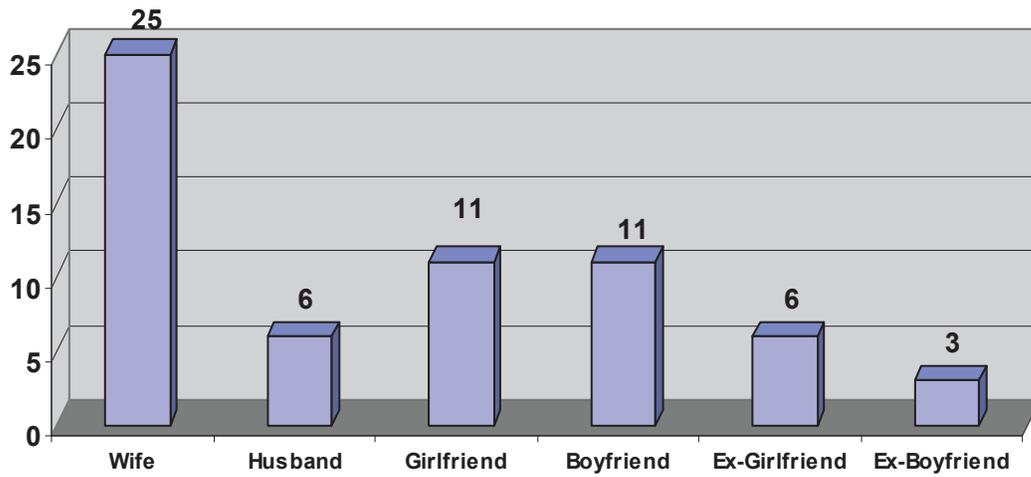
*Of the 88 homicide deaths included in this report, 62 were the result of “Intimate Partner” homicide.*



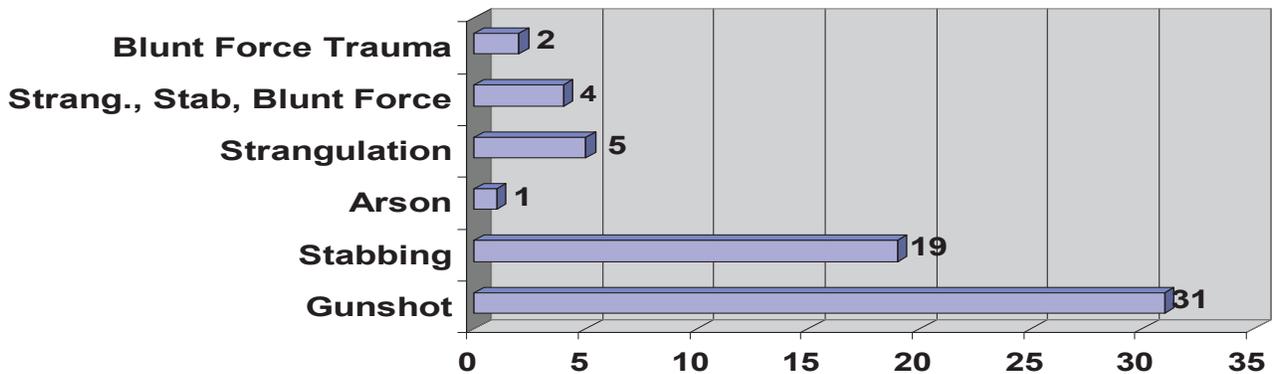


# Intimate Partner Data

## Intimate Partner Homicide Victims



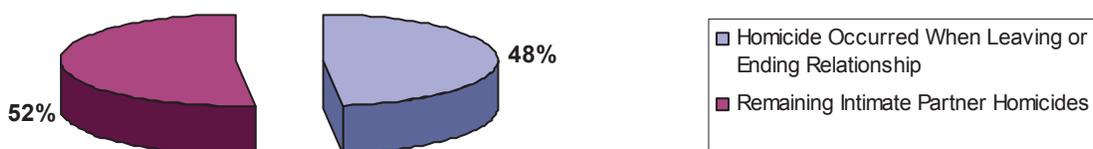
## Intimate Partner - Cause of Death (From One or Multiple Causes)





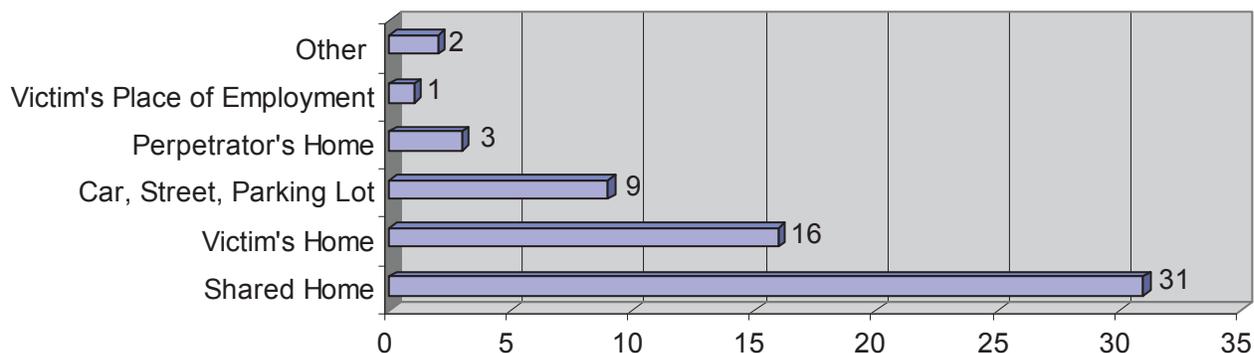
# Intimate Partner Data

## Intimate Partner Attempting to Leave/End Relationship



Of the 62 “Intimate Partner” homicides, 30 or 48% of the homicides occurred when the victim attempted to leave or had ended the relationship with the perpetrator.

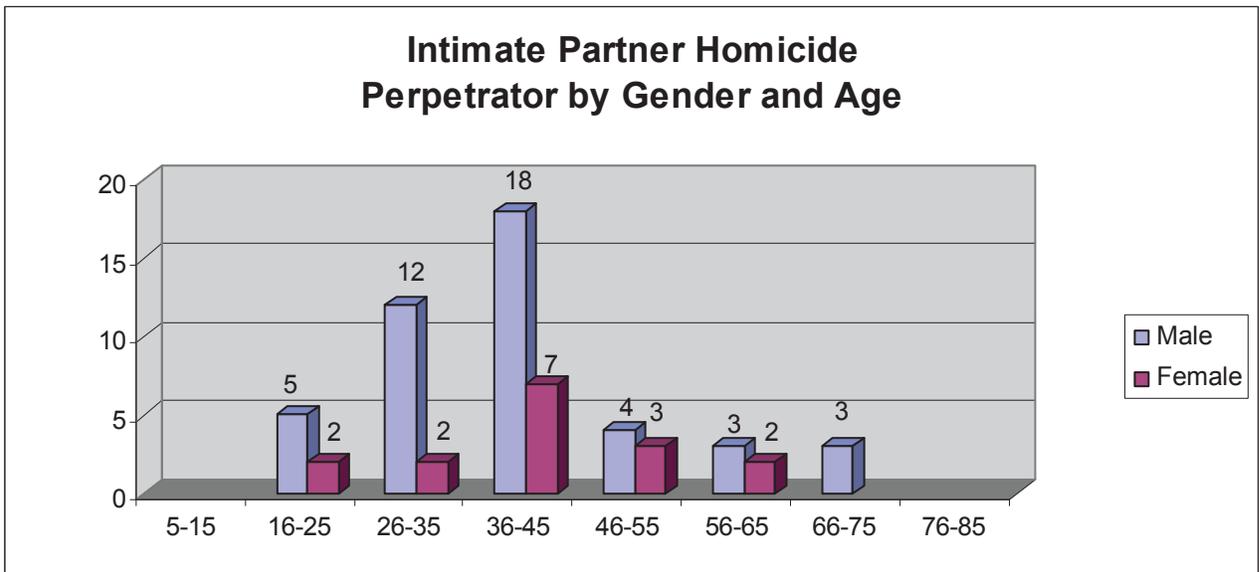
## Intimate Partner - Location of Death



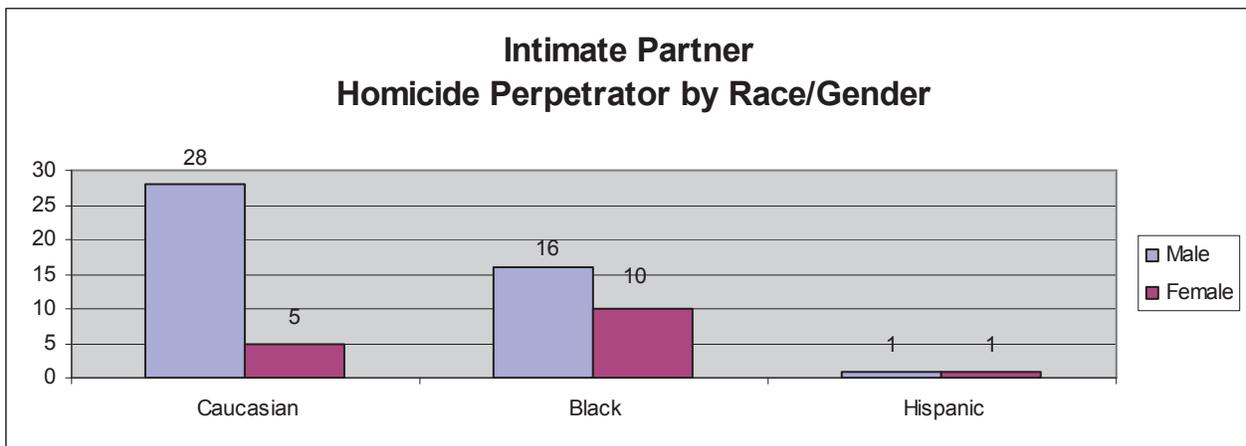


# Intimate Partner Data

*61 perpetrators were responsible for the 62 “Intimate Partner” homicides in this report.*



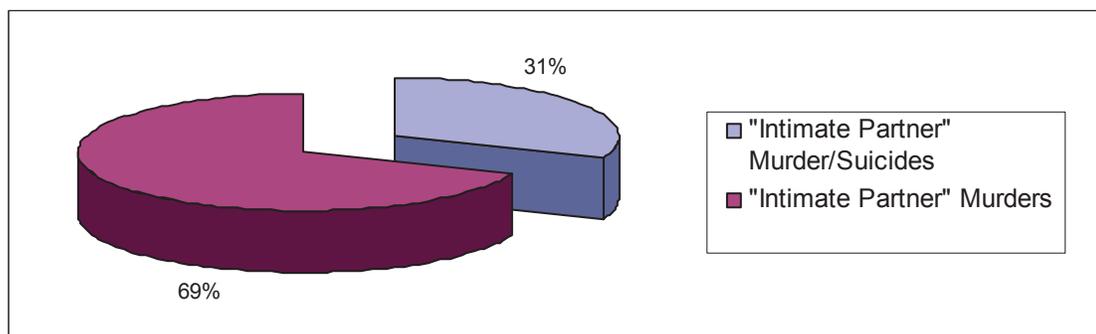
There are 61 “Intimate Partner” homicide perpetrators in this report. Of those, 45 or 74% of the perpetrators were male and 16 or 26% of the perpetrators were female.



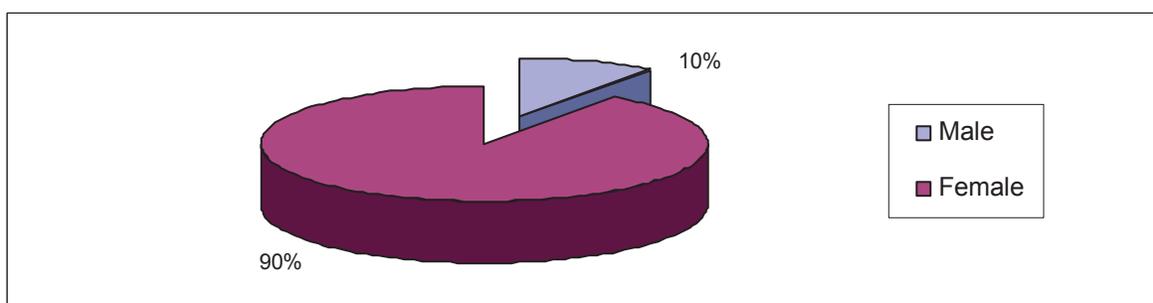


## Intimate Partner Data

*The term "Murder/Suicide" refers to those cases where the perpetrator murdered the victim and then committed suicide.*



Of the 62 "Intimate Partner" fatalities, 19 or 31% resulted from murder/suicide.



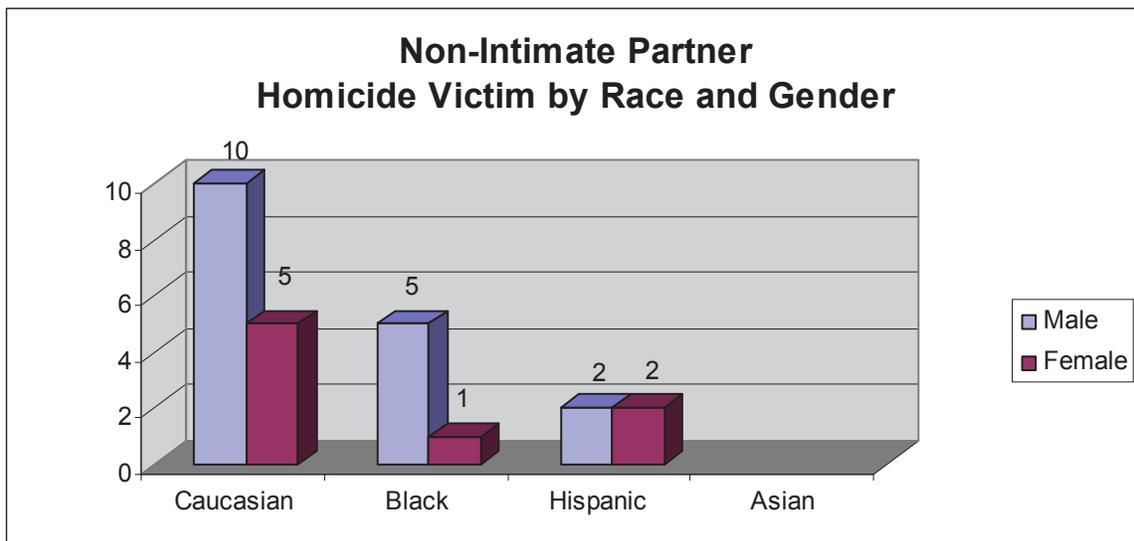
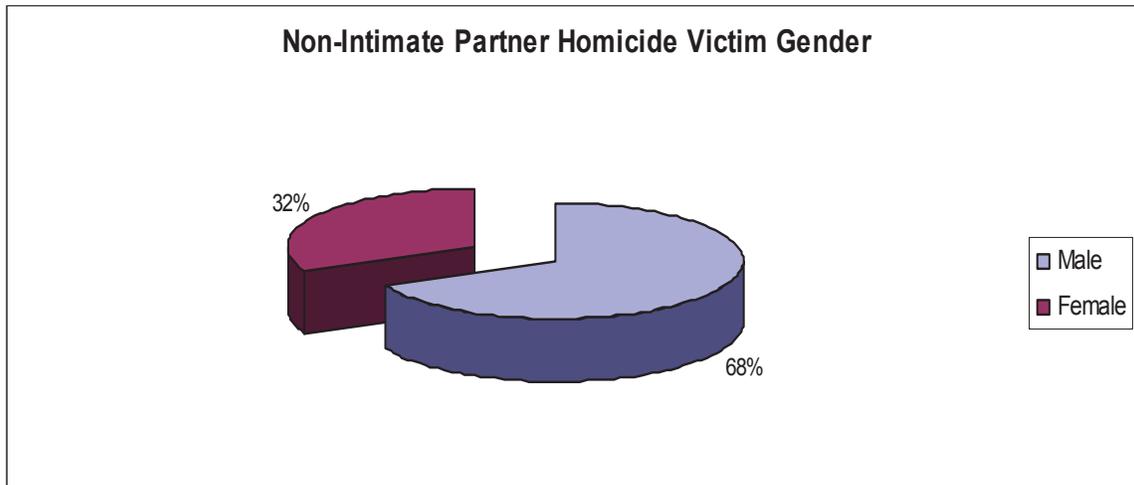
There were 21 murder/suicide cases. Of those, 19 or 90% of the perpetrators were male and 2 or 10% were female.



## Non-Intimate Partner Data

*A “Non-Intimate Partner” is an individual not included as an intimate partner; such as parent/child, brother/sister.*

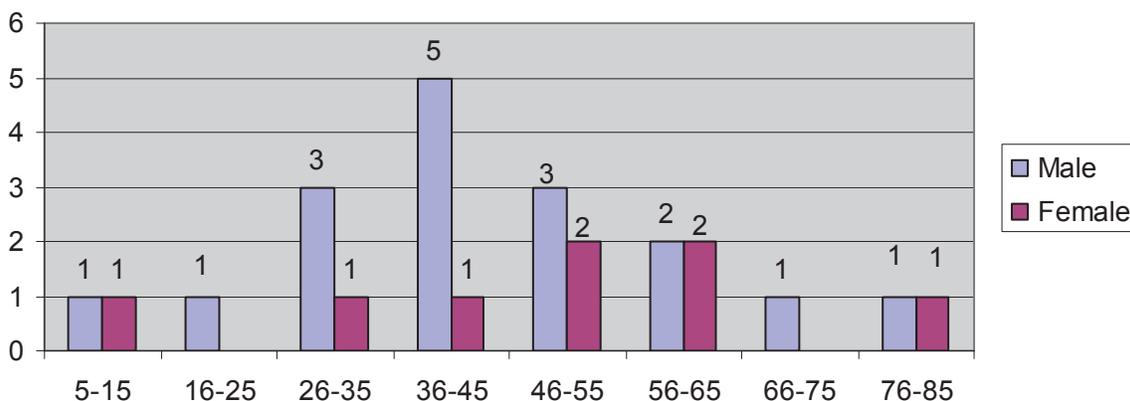
Of the 88 homicides included in this report,  
25 or 28% were “Non-Intimate Partner” homicides.



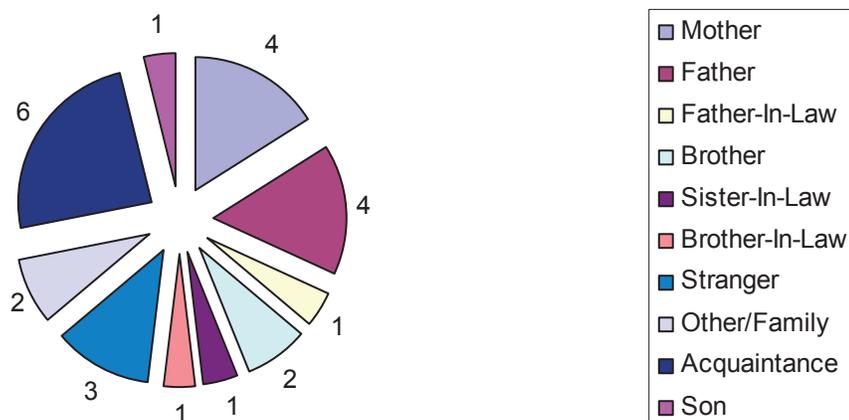


# Non-Intimate Partner Data

### Non-Intimate Homicide Victims' Age at Time of Death



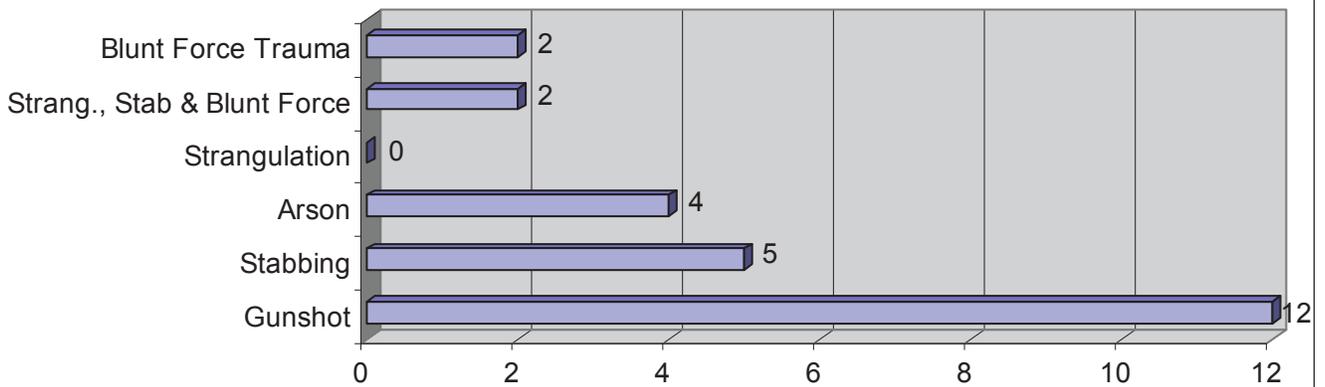
### Non-Intimate Homicide Victims



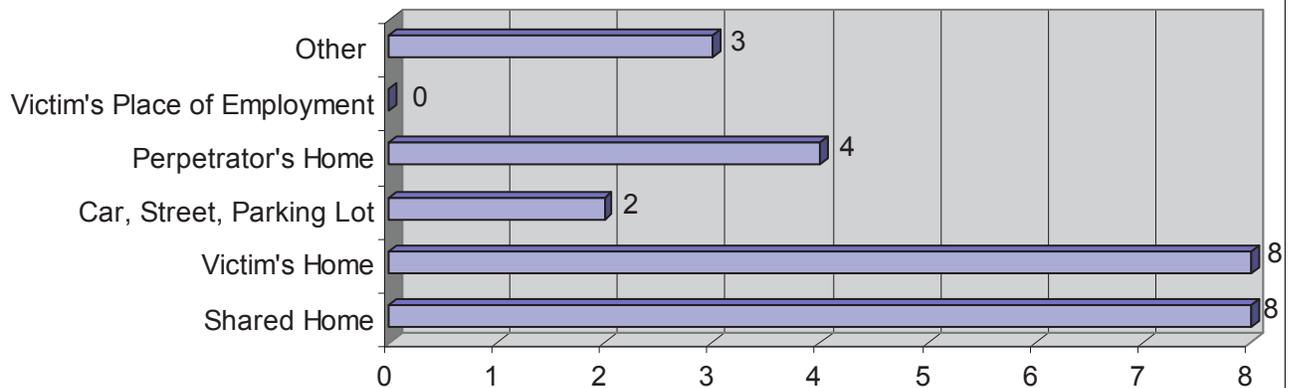


# Non-Intimate Partner Data

### Non-Intimate Homicide - Cause of Death

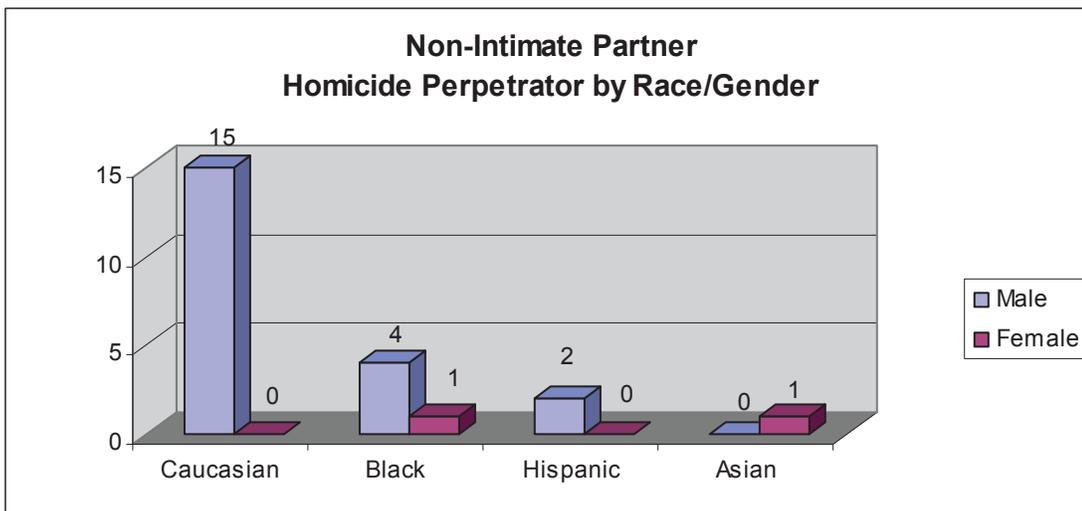


### Non-Intimate Homicide - Location of Death



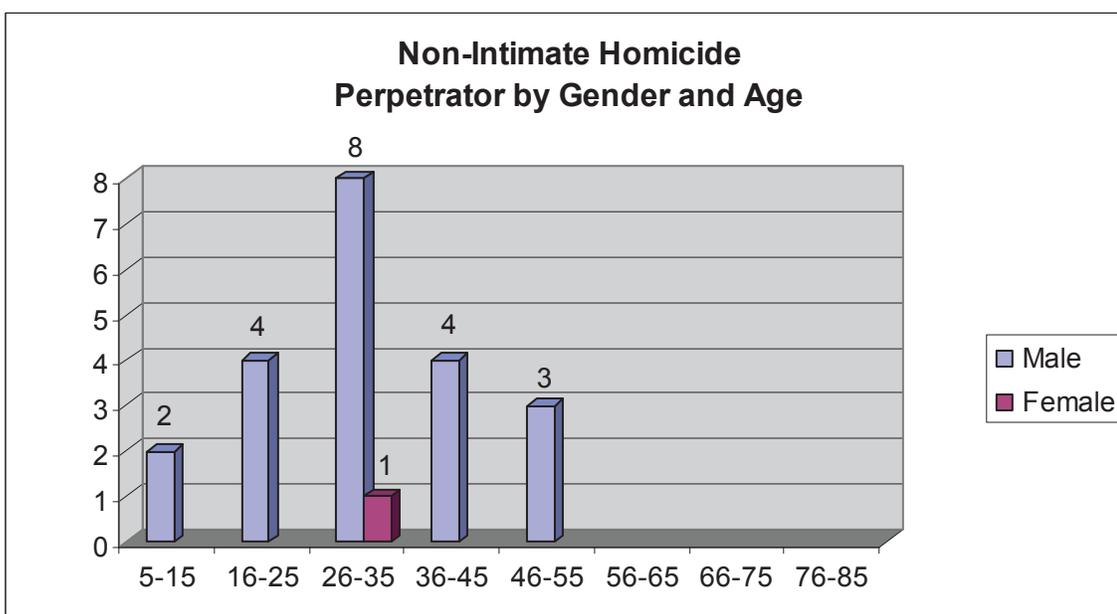


## Non-Intimate Partner Data



There are 25 “Non-Intimate Partner” homicides in this report.  
There were 23 perpetrators responsible for these deaths  
and 21 were male.

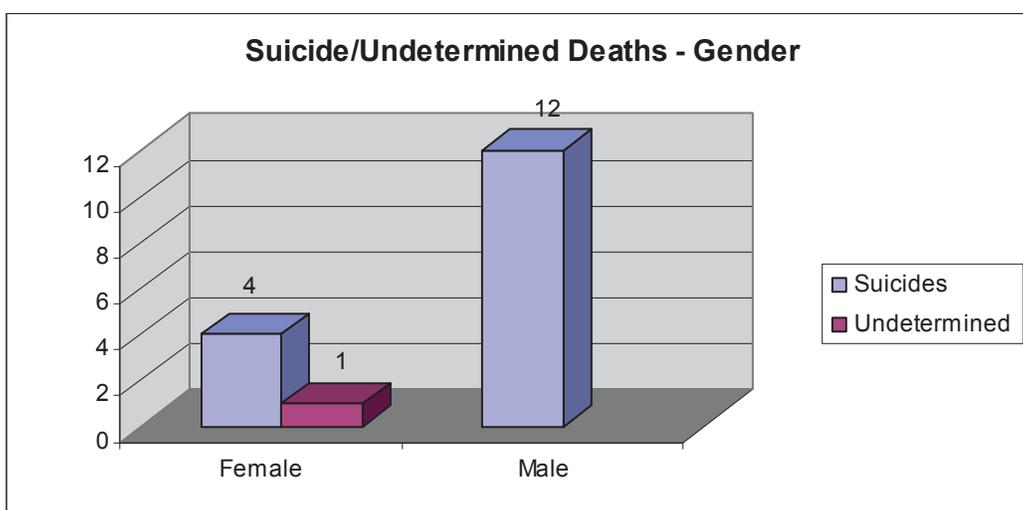
Of the 21 male perpetrators, 15 or 71% were Caucasian



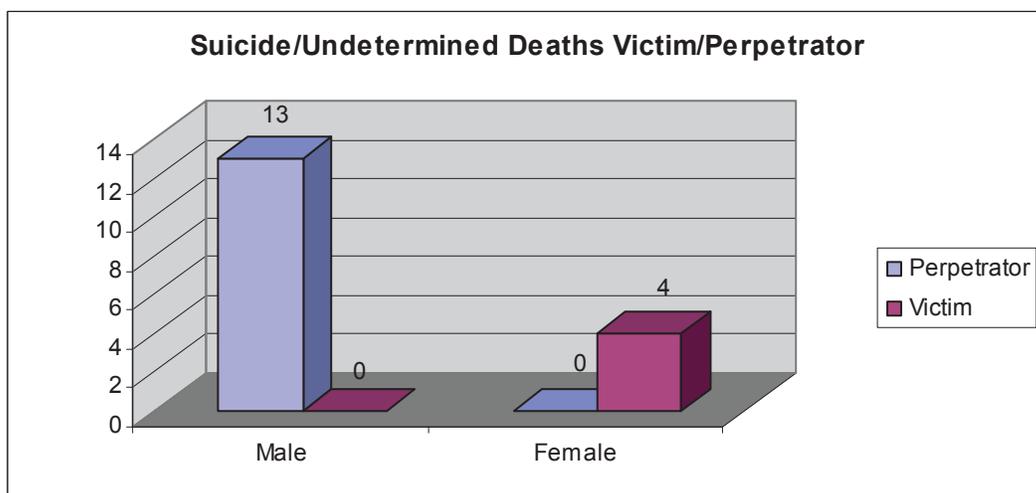


## Domestic Violence Related Suicides/Undetermined Deaths

*“Domestic Violence Suicides” are victims or perpetrators who have taken their own lives and who have had a significant history of abuse by/towards their loved one.*



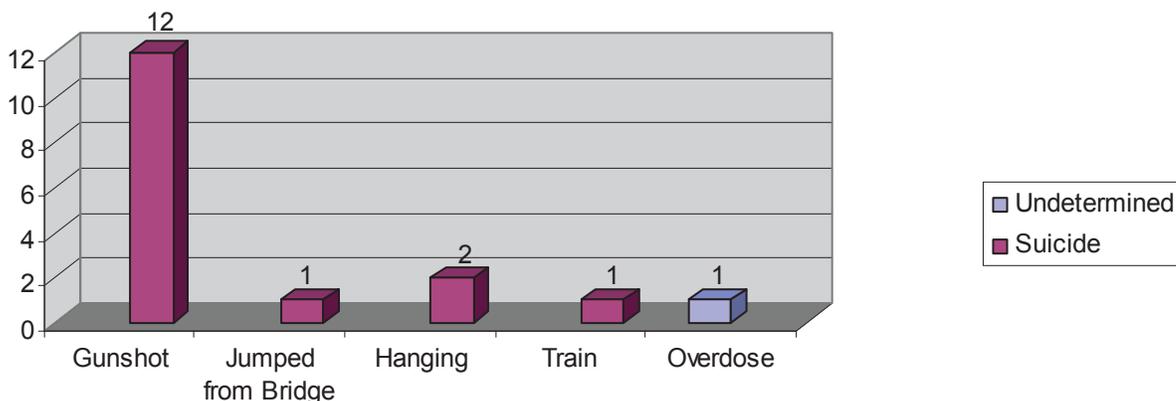
This report includes 17 domestic violence suicides, including one undetermined death





## Domestic Violence Related Suicides/Undetermined Deaths

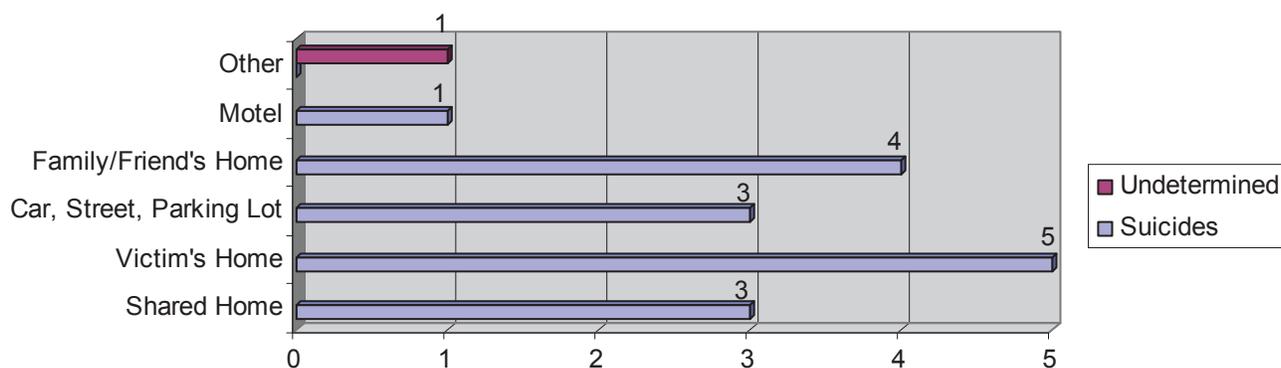
### Cause of Death



There were a total of 17 domestic related suicides, including one undetermined death.

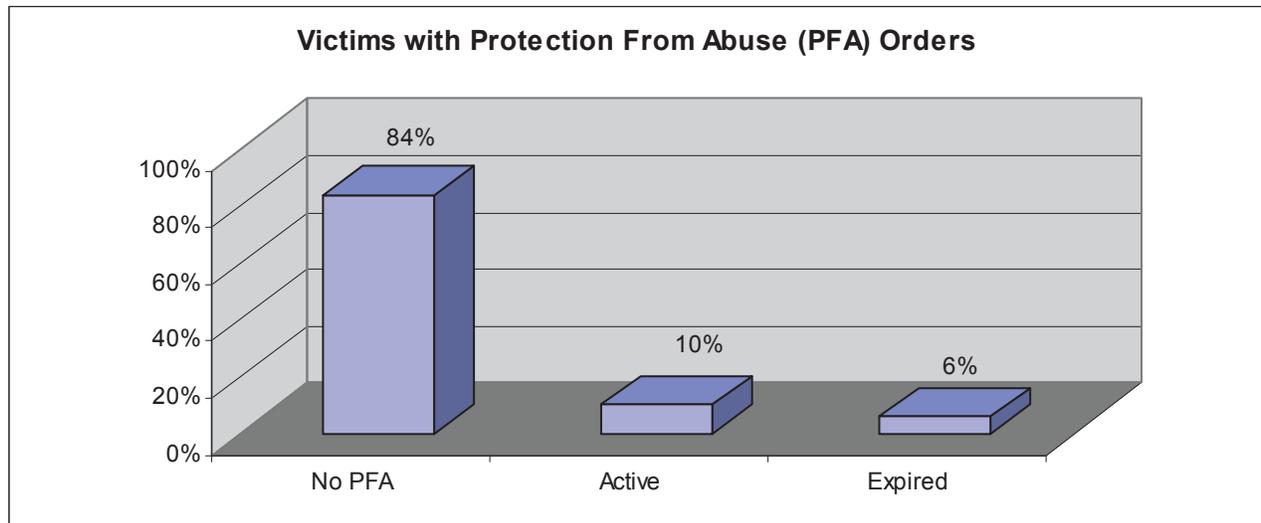
Of those 17 domestic violence related suicides/undetermined deaths, the victim's death was a result of a firearm in 12 or 71% of the cases.

### Location of Incident





## Accessing the System Victims With Protection Orders



Of the 98 cases reviewed in this report,  
84% of the victims never had a Protection From Abuse Order.

***A Protection From Abuse Order (PFA) is issued by Family Court ordering someone to stop abusing another person, and may include other relief, such as ordering the abuser to stay away from the person being abused. Abuse is defined as any threatening or harmful conduct including serious emotional harm.***



# Domestic Violence Fatality in Delaware

## An Overview of the 2010 Report

### **Children and Domestic Violence Fatality**

- ◇ Children were impacted in 71% of the cases reported. Of the 98 cases reviewed, 95 children lost one or more parent due to domestic violence.

### **Victims of Domestic Violence Homicide**

- ◇ 70% of the homicides recorded in this report were Intimate Partner homicides. 76% of those deaths were female victims. Of those females, 53% were current or former wives. 43% of the female victims were between the ages of 26 and 35.
- ◇ 48% of the Intimate Partner homicides in this report occurred when the victim ended the relationship or attempted to leave.
- ◇ 76% of the Intimate Partner homicides included in this report occurred in the victim's own home or the shared home of the victim and the perpetrator.
- ◇ 28% of the homicides in this report were Non-Intimate Partner homicides, 68% of those victims were male and of those males, 29% were between 36 and 45 years old.
- ◇ 64% of the reported Non-Intimate Partner homicides occurred in the victim's own home or the shared home of the victim and perpetrator.

### **Perpetrators of Domestic Violence Homicide**

- ◇ 74% of the Intimate Partner homicide perpetrators in this report were male. Of those males, 67% were between the ages of 26 and 45.
- ◇ 91% of the Non-Intimate Partner homicide perpetrators in this report were male. Of those males, 38% were between the ages of 26 and 35.
- ◇ 31% of the reported Intimate Partner homicides were the result of murder/suicide. 90% of the perpetrators of Intimate Partner murder/suicides included in this report were male.

### **Firearms and Domestic Violence Fatalities**

- ◇ 50% of the Intimate Partner homicides in this report were the result of a shooting.
- ◇ 48% of the Non-Intimate Partner homicides in this report were the result of a shooting.
- ◇ 75% of the Domestic Violence Related Suicides in this report were the result of a shooting.

### **Domestic Violence Related Suicide**

- ◇ 75% of the Domestic Violence Related Suicides in this report were male victims. 76% of these suicides were the perpetrator in their domestic violence situation, and 24% were the victims in their domestic violence situation.
- ◇ 31% of the Domestic Violence Related Suicides in this report occurred in the victim's home.

### **Protection From Abuse Orders**

- ◇ 88% of the homicide victims included in this report did not have an active PFA at the time of the fatality.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

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### **Domestic Violence /Rape Crisis** ***24-Hour Hotline Numbers***

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#### **New Castle County**

Domestic Violence	302-762-6110
Rape Crisis	302-761-9100

#### **Northern Kent**

Domestic Violence	302-678-3886
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#### **Kent and Sussex**

Domestic Violence	302-422-8058
Rape Crisis	800-262-9800
Bi-lingual Hotline	302-745-9874

#### **DVCC** **Main Office**

New Castle  
County Courthouse  
Suite 9425  
500 N. King Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Phone: 302-255-0405  
Fax: 302-255-2236

[www.dvcc.delaware.gov](http://www.dvcc.delaware.gov)

#### **DVCC** **Kent and Sussex** **County Office**

Milford State  
Service Center  
Suite 105  
13 S. W. Front Street  
Milford, DE 19963

Phone: 302-424-7238  
Fax: 302-424-5311

[www.dvcc.delaware.gov](http://www.dvcc.delaware.gov)

# **Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**

**[www.dvcc.delaware.gov](http://www.dvcc.delaware.gov)**